DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 239 997 SO 015 296

TITLE	Fresno County Mock Trial Competition.
INSTITUTION	Fresno City Unified School District, Calif.
PUB DATE	84
NOTE	3p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Competition; *Court Litigation; *Criminal Law; Demonstration Programs; High Schools; Human Resources; Legal Education; Program Descriptions; *Role Playing; *Simulation
IDENTIFIERS	*Mock Trials; PF Project

ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: The Fresno County Office of Education and the Fresno Unified School District hosted the Mock Trial Competition. The state competition is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, with cosponsorship from the California State Bar Association and the California Young Lawyer's Association. This program consists of local county competitions and a state final which includes student seminars and activities in state government as well as the trial play-offs. The Mock Trial is a simulation of a criminal case, with high school students playing the various roles involved in the case presentation. Students from one high school present the case for the prosecution against students from another high school who present the defense. The Mock Trial is designed to demystify the workings of our legal institutions for young people as the student teams study a hypothetical case, do legal research, and are coached by volunteer attorneys in courtroom procedure and trial preparation. Students participate as counsel, witnesses, or court clerks, actually presenting their cases in courtrooms before municipal and superior court judges. Through the Mock Trial Competition, young people increase their analytical abilities, learn self-confidence, develop communication skills, and gain an understanding of our court system. This year's Mock Trial Competition has involved 12 city and county high schools including 170 students and 12 teacher/sponsors. The participating schools are: Bullard High School, Central High School, Clovis High School, Clovis West High School, Fresno High School, Hoover High School, Kerman High School, Kingsburg Joint Union High School, McLane High School, Roosevelt High School, Sanger High School, and Sierra Joint Union High School. The schools received the criminal case packet prepared by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Twenty-four attorney coaches from the Fresno County Bar Association and Young Lawyer's Association assisted the teams in their case preparation. The cases were heard before nine municipal and superior court judges assisted by 19 attorneys in the scoring process. The winning team from Fresno County will participate in the California State Mock Trial Competition in Sacramento on March 6-8, 1984. In addition to the final trials, students will explore state government, meeting with their legislators and examining the important issues facing California. This document was selected by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Task Force on Public Confidence as descriptive of a promising practice or exemplary project worthy of highlighting for the California educational community. (Author)

ED239997

FRESNO COUNTY MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Fresno Unified School District

Fresno, California

This document was selected by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Task Force on Public Confidence as descriptive of a promising practice or exemplary project worthy of highlighting for the California educational community.

S0015296

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

✓ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Glen Rathwick

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION FORM

Name of School, District or Agency: Fresno Unified — Grade Levels: K-12

Address: Tulare and M Streets — Telephone (203) 441-3522

City: Fresno — State: Calif. — Zip: 93721

Name of Contact Person: Glen Rathwick, Associate Superintendent, Division of Instruction — ACSA Region: IX

Name of Course, Program, Project or Policy: Fresno County Mock Trial Competition

Date of Operation of Program or Project: December 1983 - January 1984

In 300 words or less please describe your program specifically enough for others to follow. Please include your program's
(1) primary purpose (how it benefits students)
(2) participants (grade levels of students, professional staff, community persons, etc)
(3) evaluation data (if available)

The Fresno County Office of Education and the Fresno Unified School District hosted the Mock Trial Competition. The state competition is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, with cosponsorship from the California State Bar Association and the California Young Lawyers Association. This program consists of local county competitions and a state final which includes student seminars and activities in state government as well as the trial play-offs.

The Mock Trial is a simulation of a criminal case, with high school students playing the various roles involved in the case presentation. Students from one high school present the case for the prosecution against students from another high school who present the defense. The Mock Trial is designed to demystify the workings of our legal institutions for young people as the student teams study a hypothetical case, do legal research, and are coached by volunteer attorneys in courtroom procedure and trial preparation. Students participate as counsel, witnesses, or court clerks, actually presenting their cases in courtrooms before Municipal and Superior Court judges.

Through the Mock Trial Competition, young people increase their analytical abilities, learn self-confidence, develop communication skills, and gain an understanding of our court system.

This year's Mock Trial competition has involved 12 city and county high schools including 170 students and 12 teacher/sponsors. The participating schools are: Bullard High School, Central High School, Clovis High School, Clovis West High School, Fresno High School, Hoover High School, Kerman High School, Kingsburg Joint Union High School, McLane High School, Roosevelt High School, Sanger High School, and Sierra Joint Union High School.

The schools received the criminal case packet prepared by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Twenty-four attorney coaches from the Fresno County Bar Association and Young Lawyers Association assisted the teams in their case preparation. The cases were heard before 9 Municipal and Superior Court judges assisted by 19 attorneys in the scoring process.

The winning team from Fresno County will participate in the California State Mock Trial Competition in Sacramento on March 6-8, 1984. In addition to the final trials, students will explore state government, meeting with their legislators and examining the important issues facing California.

Permission to reproduce this program description and accompanying materials (if any) is granted to ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center).

NAME: Glen Rathwick — DATE: 2/3/84

Enclose supporting or descriptive materials and return to ACSA Public Confidence Task Force, Public Relations Department, 1517 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814